

## Post-Event Summary Report

**Name of Event:** 2005 Community Forum on Aging  
“Issues an Challenges – Now and Future”

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**Date of Event:** April 20, 2005

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**Location of Event:** EnochD.DavisCenter, St. Petersburg,  
Florida

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(Include city and state)

**Number of Persons attending100:**

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**Sponsoring Organization(s):** City of St.Petersburg Office on Aging & Elder Care  
Advocacy of Florida

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Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first.

**Please ensure that your organization’s name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.**

**Priority Issue #1:** (describe specific issue)

COMMUNITY HOUSING: Need for affordable housing in all areas.

**Barriers:** (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

Lack of available initiatives. Tax Structure. Community demand and leadership. Lack of Developer interest. Limited HUD Programs.

**Proposed Solution(s):** (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

Collaborative funding participation with Public and Private sectors. Reduced Tax structure for senior participants. Increase Funding for senior housing programs with

incentives for developers. Involve the Community Leadership in planning and implementation through public meetings .

#### Priority Issue #2

**COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION:** Need for affordable transportation available to both senior and special needs members of the community.

**Barriers:** Limited funding for Public and Private efforts. Lack of coordinated and organized community demand for service. Younger seniors preference for private vehicle use. Absence of leadership for prioritizing effort.

**Proposed Solutions:** Increase funding to create viable sustainable program. Involve the community in identifying acceptable options in transportation plans. Have affordable and convenient transportation options available that compare with private vehicle use. Evaluate possible car pooling , trip consolidation (shopping mall, grocery store, etc.) for maximum cost and time savings.

#### Priority Issue #3

**COMMUNITY ACCESS TO SERVICES:** Need programs, with dissemination of availability information, that provide for services, such as, Adult day care, respite care, overall healthcare and education of available services through a single source, office, or agency.

**Barriers:** Individual agencies providing individual single service (Domain and turf protection) Demand not generating focused attention within the community. High level of need not recognized at this point. Lack of information , in media (print and electronic) is insufficient in availability to general public.

**Proposed Solutions:** Combine agency efforts in one stop shopping availability. Involve community in planning for available programs and education in the promotion thereof. Stress importance of visualizing future requirements of the community. Fund information and education of available programs. Offer prepared Public Service Announcement formats to local and regional media.

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Elder Care Advocacy of Florida, Austin R. Curry, [arc@curryales.com](mailto:arc@curryales.com)

Priority Issue #4

**HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AND ACCESS:** Need coverage of uninsured and under insured population with prescription benefits that are available to all seniors.

**Barriers:** Lack of current insurance coverage availability. Medicare does not cover all. Current and proposed cuts in Medicaid program funding of services. Confusion as to what is offered and not covered in guidelines. Lack of funding in all areas of healthcare for the elderly.

**Proposed Solutions:** Adequately fund healthcare programs to cover all seniors regardless of economic status. Encourage more advocacy by community leaders that will aid seniors. Use plain, simple understandable, language in rules and regulations covering healthcare guidelines for elder coverage. Insure that even homeless classifications are covered.

Priority Issue #5

**NUTRITION NEEDS AND ACCESS:** Need access, and availability of fresh fruit and vegetables, by community seniors. With information and education programs that cover good nutrition.

**Barriers:** Inadequate transportation for too many elders. Lack of education and informational programs on nutrition. Absence of adequate funding for elder nutrition assistance. Care and concern not a high enough priority at this point.

**Proposed Solutions:** Expand meals on wheels program. Offer neighborhood market runs, for fresh produce, to residents. Expand surplus food programs to community neighborhoods. Utilize community centers and senior centers as information and education nutrition program locations. Use volunteers in the community as door to door information and education messengers on nutrition and locations for food availability. Adequately fund Stamp out Hunger and Eat Healthy and Wise programs in local communities. Use community centers and senior centers as distribution and pick-up points for available food.

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